



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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Linda McCulloch
Superintendent

TO: MBI School Teams

FROM: Susan Bailey-Anderson June Atkins
MBI Coordinator Learn and Serve Montana Director

Josset Gauley
Learn and Serve Montana Coordinator

RE: MBI, Character Education and Service-Learning Youth Day(s)

DATE: September 4, 2007

**"The most satisfying thing in life is to have been able
to give a large part of one's self to others."**

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin



Greetings! Effective school change requires wide stakeholder participation. Engaging the student voice in designing and implementing school change can be very powerful. We can make a difference – one student and one school at a time.

An invitation is extended to you and your middle school and high school students to participate with the MBI, Character Education and Service-Learning Youth Day(s) for 2007-2008. On Sunday, we will begin at 3:00 p.m. and conclude by 9:00 p.m. On Monday, we will commence at 8:30 a.m. and conclude by 3:00 p.m. A meal will be served on Sunday evening and a morning snack and lunch on Monday. Your school will be reimbursed for travel, lodging (if you should need it) and per diem at the current state rates. Following are the dates and locations; October 14 and 15 – Kalispell, November 4 and 5 – Missoula, November 11 and 12 – Billings, November 18 and 19, 2007 – Great Fall.

We are very excited to have a nationally known presenter attend the Youth Days. Devon Harris, three-time winter Olympian, Captain of the Jamaican Bobsled Team, and "Cool Running's" Team Member is coming to Montana for Youth Days. Devon will be conducting two workshops, one for high school students and one for middle school students. "Skool Runnings – Yes, I can," will help students succeed and promote themselves and your school in a positive manner.

Additionally Randy Chase, MBI Consultant and teacher at Castle Rock Middle School, Billings, will be facilitating the entire event. Activities are planned so that students will have the

"It is the mission of the Office of Public Instruction to improve teaching and learning through communication, collaboration, advocacy, and accountability to those we serve."

opportunity to work with students from other schools, as well as with their own teams. With this year's event, we will once again be providing information regarding Service-Learning. Teams will conduct Service-Learning projects in each of the locations on Monday of the event.

The event will be structured so that teams of students and school staff will create action plans for their school site regarding the implementation of the MBI process and Service-Learning, as well as addressing leadership skills, asset building, and bully prevention at their school. Sessions and activities will be mostly student directed with school staff participation.

This event includes opportunities for fun, networking, and developing future and current leaders. We are considering making arrangements to have this Youth Day videotaped as well. If your school has not received permission to videotape your students, please utilize the enclosed permission form and return to this office. You will need to make additional copies for your students.

The experience from past Youth Days was enthusiastic, motivating, and all who attended had a great time. Please plan to set up a poster session to introduce your school and service learning projects conducted in the past year. Please indicate on the Registration/RSVP form if you will need a table for the poster session.

Please plan to attend this event and bring 10-12 participants. This includes both students and staff. In selecting students, please include a broad spectrum of your student population, including student leaders and future student leaders. A cross section of your student population would be ideal in promoting diverse ideas and thoughts. Please complete the enclosed Registration/RSVP form indicating the number and names of both students and staff who will be attending. This is important to adequately plan for meals and/or other activities.

Please return these forms to Susan Bailey-Anderson, PO Box 202501, Helena, MT 59620-2501; Fax - 406-444-3924

- ♦ **RSVP/Registration**
- ♦ **Permission Form**

When the RSVP/Registration Form is received at the OPI, you will receive a confirmation letter with detailed information regarding sites and lodging.

For questions, please call me at (406)444-2046 or e-mail sbanderson@mt.gov

Enclosures

c: Consultants
Randy Chase
Devon Harris
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